

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

Conference Call Summary

Monday, May 21, 2012

2:00 – 3:00 p.m. Eastern Daylight Saving Time

Participants

Jeff Mears

Tribal Science Council Tribal Co-Chair
Oneida Tribe of Indians (Region 5)
Phone: (920) 869-4555
Email: jmears@oneidanation.org

Ted Coopwood

Tribal Science Council Agency Co-Chair
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Children's Health Protection and
Environmental Education
Phone: (202) 564-2197
Email: coopwood.theodore@epa.gov

Monica Rodia

Tribal Science Council Executive Secretary
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development
Phone: (202) 564-8322
Email: rodia.monica@epa.gov

Ken Bailey

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Science Policy
Phone: (513) 569-7841
E-mail: bailey.ken@epa.gov

Thomas L. Baugh

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 4
Phone: (404) 562-8275
Email: baugh.thomasl@epa.gov

Sirirat (Tia) Chullakorn

Kashia Band of Pomo Indians of the Stewarts
Point Rancheria (Region 9)
Phone: (707) 591-0580, ext. 113
Email: u2sc@yahoo.com

Scott Clow

Ute Mountain Ute Tribe (Region 8)
Phone: (970) 564-5431
E-mail: sclow@utemountain.org

Brenda Groskinsky

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 7
Phone: (913) 551-7188
E-mail: groskinsky.brenda@epa.gov

Blake Huff

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
Phone: (303) 312-6718
Email: huff.blake@epa.gov

Orville Huntington

Alaska Federation of Natives (Region 10)
E-mail: orville_h_huntington@hotmail.com

Elizabeth (Beth) Jackson

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Environmental Information
Phone: (202) 566-0626
Email: jackson.elizabeth@epa.gov

Denise Jensen

Winnebago Tribe of Nebraska (Region 7)
Phone: (402) 878-4060
E-mail: winnewater@huntel.net

Lon Kissinger

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 10
Phone: (206) 553-2115
Email: kissinger.lon@epa.gov

James Leathers

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 6
Phone: (214) 665-6569
E-mail: leathers.james@epa.gov

Kathleen (Kathy) Mayo

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 5
Phone: (312) 353-5592
E-mail: mayo.kathleen@epa.gov

Allison Martin

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Research and Development Intern
Phone: (202) 564-0845
E-mail: martin.allison@epa.gov

Marissa McInnis

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
American Indian Environmental Office
Phone: (202) 564-2467
E-mail: mcinnis.marissa@epa.gov

Dennis O'Connor

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Air and Radiation
Phone: (202) 343-9213
Email: oconnor.dennis@epa.gov

Katie Renwick

Eastern Band of Cherokee Indians
Phone: (828) 497-1832
E-mail: katerenw@nc-chokeee.com

Kai Tang

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 2
Phone: (732) 321-4364
Email: tang.kai@epa.gov

Patti Tyler

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Region 8
Phone: (303) 312-6081
Email: tyler.patti@epa.gov

Felicia Wright

U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
Office of Water
Phone: (202) 566-1886
E-mail: wright.felicia@epa.gov

Kelly Wright

Shoshone-Bannock Tribes (Region 10)
Phone: (208) 478-3903
E-mail: kwright@shoshonebannocktribes.com

Contractor Support

Kristen LeBaron

The Scientific Consulting Group, Inc.
Phone: (301) 670-4990
Email: klebaron@scgcorp.com

Welcome

Monica Rodia, Executive Secretary of the National EPA-Tribal Science Council (TSC), welcomed the members to the teleconference.

April Business Meeting Minutes

Monica reported that the April business meeting minutes have been reviewed finalized and distributed to the TSC members and are now part of the official record. She encouraged members who are unable to attend a teleconference to read the minutes in order to stay abreast of activities, action items, and important dates.

Caucus Report Outs

Jeff Mears reported that the Tribal Caucus discussed the TSC Organizational Document on its May 21 conference call, and Kristen LeBaron has updated the document to reflect final changes. Jeff has been invited to attend the First Stewards Climate Change Symposium in Washington, DC which is happening the same week as the July 2012 National Tribal Operations Committee (NTOC) meeting; he hopes to be able to attend the NTOC meeting too. Monica said that the NTOC meeting is on July 18th, and it would be great if Jeff could participate in both meetings. Jeff ended his report stating that the Oneida Tribe is hosting an Institute for Tribal Environmental Professionals (ITEP) course on climate change adaptation during the first week of June 2012.

Ted Coopwood reported that the EPA Caucus has also updated the TSC Organizational Document. He added that the spirit of the document has stayed the same, but some language has been changed to improve the flow of the document. The document is in good shape in terms of activities related to identifying the National Tribal Science Priorities (TSPs) and developing unified methods to implement them. The TSC as a whole will discuss the updated Organizational Document during the June 2012 business meeting. In addition, the TSC members also will discuss the Traditional Ecological Knowledge (TEK) workshop during the face-to-face meeting. A large part of the success of the workshop will be focused on EPA staff learning from the tribes about TEK through case studies, examples and expert speakers. Ted stressed that EPA learning from the tribes is important. The TSC will discuss the framework for the workshop and identify locations for the gathering. He added the workshop provides an excellent opportunity for the TSC to build accomplishments around TEK. This is especially important as TEK is the focus of one of the two National TSPs.

Monica stated that she attended the Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit, and it was very informative. There are a number of federal agencies integrating TEK into their tribal programs, creating plenty of opportunities to work with existing groups on the issue. Region 10 is rich in the practice of TEK and how to use it in making environmental decisions. She added the information and networks established will help the TSC develop its niche regarding TEK from a research standpoint. As we develop the TEK workshop, it is important to consider how the workshop relates to the issues the tribes outlined as most important concerning TEK and what they wanted EPA to do to address the priority issue.

Roll Call

Monica took roll of those present on the teleconference. Patti Tyler introduced Blake Huff as her alternate on the Council representing Region 8. Monica asked for input about holding the roll call in the middle of the teleconference to decrease the disruptiveness of those who call in following the roll call at the beginning. She is open to suggestions about when roll call should be held.

TSC Business Meeting—Logistics and Agenda

Monica reported that the logistics information and final draft agenda had been sent to the TSC members via email. The hotel has extended the reservation period for the below-*per-diem* rate of \$49 per night until Thursday, May 24, 2012, so those members who have not made their reservations need to do so this week. Tom Baugh reported that he had been offered two different rates; both were within the government *per diem* limit, but the more expensive rate included a microwave, refrigerator and better view. Beth Jackson said that she had been offered the same deal. Monica offered that it was hotel marketing and Donna Jackson our conference planner had not negotiated two rates.

Monica expected that the training memorandum would be approved by the end of the week; she will send the memorandum to the EPA Caucus members when it is approved. The Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe was able to secure transportation for a field tour of the reservation on Thursday, June 14th. She thanked John Mosley and his tribe for their generous support of the TSC and the tour. She asked Jeff to send her the topic and outline for the Tribal Caucus session so that she can finalize the agenda.

Ted notified the TSC members that his daughter's graduation date had changed and now conflicts with day one of the business meeting. He added that Beth Jackson (OEI) will fill in for him on the first day, and he will join the Council on the morning of day two. Ted noted that the Agenda Development Team had produced a solid agenda, providing the Council with the opportunity to accomplish a great deal at the meeting. Ted emphasized the importance of planning the fall meeting/TEK workshop, and members should come prepared to work. Additionally, members should begin brainstorming for the NTOC meeting on July 18th, where the TSC will update EPA senior management on the progress of the TSPs. Ted and Monica have met with their senior management, who have asked them what the tribes consider "success" in this process. Ted asked Jeff and the Tribal Caucus to think about this question and help the EPA Caucus define what success looks like regarding the TSPs. The TSC must be able to report achievements and the path forward to the NTOC based on a tribal perspective. Jeff agreed that this was important and wondered how this information could be gathered. Monica added that during the first day of the TSC June meeting, the TSC will be discussing the information obtained from the regions and program offices about projects and activities related to the TSPs. The EPA Caucus will present the information for Tribal Caucus consideration.

Monica noted that the Tribal ecoAmbassadors will be prominent at the face-to-face meeting; day 2 is devoted to the ecoAmbassadors' projects, presentations and posters. Marissa McInnis (AIEO) thanked the TSC for inviting the ecoAmbassadors to attend. Seven of the eight Ambassadors will be participating in the meeting and are excited to present their results. The majority will have near-final results by the June meeting, including how the ecoAmbassadors are sharing the results with the local tribes. The poster session will facilitate discussion among the ecoAmbassadors and the TSC. The program is planning to announce next year's program via press release on the EPA website in early June.

Monica asked whether the program would specify project areas for consideration, or whether the proposals would be determined by the Tribal Colleges and Universities' (TCUs) submissions. Marissa explained that this year's program chose a two-pronged approach, whereas last year, project areas were dependent on TCU submissions. One change for this year was that the Office of Environmental Information sponsored two data-related Toxic Release Inventory (TRI) projects that are related to the number of TRI facilities near TCUs and reservations. Beth reported that there are approximately 46 facilities in Indian Country that meet TRI requirements, and the projects are focusing on facilities near Indian Country as well. Monica thanked the Office of International and Tribal Affairs and the American Indian Environmental Office for using the TSC meeting as a forum and allowing the members to have the opportunity to interact with ecoAmbassadors.

Monica asked the Tribal Caucus members who have not returned their travel packages to do so immediately so that Troy Rutkofske can arrange travel before costs it is prohibitively expensive. Scott Clow said that he could not find the form that Monica had sent; Monica will resend it via email. Monica also will send the members the TEK workshop flyer via email. The plan for the fall meeting is to spend one day on TSC business followed by a three-day TEK workshop, making the fall meeting a total of four days. The TSC will be competing for speakers, so it is necessary to determine a date at the June meeting and develop a list of potential invited speakers.

Announcements

Ted announced that a webinar entitled, “Indians and the Environment: Indian Law Principles—Part I,” would be held on May 23, 2012. The second part will be held during the June business meeting. He is looking forward to learning from experts with a firm background on Indian law and how it applies to environmental aspects outside of the EPA’s purview. This training provides a chance for EPA Caucus members to grow and learn about Indian law as well as an opportunity to see new applications of old knowledge and/or information. Monica said that the final slides for the webinar would be available on May 22, 2012. This is a great opportunity for the EPA to obtain a better understanding of federal trust responsibility and cases that frame how the agency works with the tribes. There will be homework that will be the basis of Part II of the training. Patti Tyler asked who was providing the training. Monica responded that it was Native American Consulting from Arlington, Virginia.

Ted thanked the members for participating. Monica adjourned the conference call at 2:45 p.m.

Action Items

- ✧ TSC members will send input to Monica via email regarding when during each teleconference roll call should occur.
- ✧ TSC members who have not made their hotel reservations for the June face-to-face meeting must do so no later than May 24, 2012.
- ✧ Monica will send the training memorandum to EPA Caucus members when it has been approved.
- ✧ Jeff will send the information on the topic for the Tribal Caucus discussion at the June business meeting to Monica via email.
- ✧ Ted, Jeff and the Tribal Caucus members will determine what successful implementation of the TSPs in Indian Country will look like so that Ted, Jeff and Monica can report this information to the NTOC during its July 2012 meeting.
- ✧ Tribal Caucus members who have not sent their travel forms to Monica will do so as soon as possible.
- ✧ Monica will resend the travel form to Scott via email.
- ✧ Monica will send the TEK workshop flyer to the TSC members via email.
- ✧ Monica will send the Indian law webinar slides to the EPA Caucus members on Tuesday, May 22, 2012, once they are finalized by the consultant.

NATIONAL EPA-TRIBAL SCIENCE COUNCIL

CONFERENCE CALL

MAY 21, 2012

2:00 PM – 3:00 P.M. EASTERN DAYLIGHT SAVING TIME

Call-in Number: **866-299-3188**

Access Code: **2025648322#**

FINAL AGENDA

- 2:00 – 2:01 Welcome
- 2:01 – 2:05 April Business Meeting Minutes
- Distributed for review and finalized
- 2:05 – 2:25 Caucus Reports
- Tribal Caucus—Jeff Mears
 - TSC Overview Document
 - Report from Region 10 Tribal Leaders Summit
 - EPA Caucus—Ted Coopwood
 - TSC Overview Document
 - TEK Workshop
- 2:25 – 2:30 Roll Call
- 2:30 – 2:55 TSC Spring Business Meeting—Logistics and Agenda
- Dates: June 12–14, 2012, in Reno, Nevada
 - Host: Pyramid Lake Paiute Tribe (PLPT)
 - Final logistics: (1) **deadline for hotel reservations is May 18, 2012;** (2) travel arrangements; (3) training memorandum; (4) PLPT tours and presentations; and (5) email distribution of meeting materials
 - Final Agenda distributed
- 2:55 – 3:00 Announcements:
- May 23, 2012, Webinar “Indians and the Environment: Indian Law Principles—Part I”

Next conference call—*June 18, 2012, 2:00 – 3:00 pm EDT*